

high a grade as would be required in a master's thesis. Some of the illustrations that are apparently redrawn from this and that author are frequently a good way "after" the originals.

The space devoted to certain important subjects like embryology is too meager, at least on its physiological side, and the whole chapter on physiology, besides being out of all proportion to the size of the work in its brevity, in some places becomes a mere catalogue of important topics with striking bold-face headlines and a few words of explanatory matter.

While the work has many good features that will readily commend themselves, it can by no means be taken to represent the standard of American botany of the present day. The subject of botany has become too broad to lie within the grasp of one man, and the ideal university text-book—still a dream of the future—must be the work of many specialists with the whole brought into coördination by one master mind whose botanical perspective is so clear-cut that the real relation of parts will form a consistent and logical whole. Even the phlegmatic Germans have reached this point and have set an example of this sort. It remains for Americans in the future to adopt and perfect the plan.

LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1902

The meeting of May 13 was held at 8 p. m., at the College of Pharmacy ; 18 persons present ; Dr. H. H. Rusby in the chair.

The secretary reported a request from the Brooklyn Institute to print the Torrey Club's weekly program of excursions on the weekly program-ticket of the Institute. The Club voted its endorsement of this arrangement.

The treasurer asked for the appointment of a committee to report on the price of the Memoirs to members of the Club. As a committee the chair appointed the board of editors and the treasurer.

Dr. Underwood and others discussed the proposed Fourth of July excursion to the lakes near Jamesville, N. Y. With this it

is proposed to combine a visit to the halophytic flora of the Saline Salt Springs.

Two new members were elected: Mr. W. A. Cannon, Columbia University; Mrs. Emily Hitchcock Terry, Hubbard House, Northampton, Mass.

The scientific program was as follows: Margaret Slosson, "A Hybrid between *Asplenium platyneuron* and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*"; Francis E. Lloyd, "Vivipary in *Podocarpus*" and "A new Method of displaying Herbarium Specimens."

These papers, which were illustrated with numerous drawings and specimens, will soon appear in print.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. G. V. Nash, head gardener of the New York Botanical Garden, returned on June 14 from a visit to some of the botanical gardens of Europe. Arrangements for exchanges of living plants were made with various gardens.

Mr. Joseph E. Kirkwood, instructor in botany in Syracuse University, and Miss Winifred J. Robinson, instructor in Vassar College, are carrying on some special studies at the New York Botanical Garden during the summer vacation.

A prospectus of the new Sharon Biological Observatory at Sharon, Massachusetts, has recently been distributed. The plans of this institution, so far as developed, include the following: "(A) A preserve for native trees, wild flowers and other wild plants, and for wild animals such as insectivorous and game birds, rabbits, squirrels, fishes, frogs, etc.; (B) opportunities for experimental and field investigation in natural history, biology, etc.; (C) summer school of nature studies." The Observatory is at present a private undertaking on the part of the Director, Dr. George W. Field, and others connected with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The summer school opens on July 9. The botanical courses offered are under the direction of J. G. Jack, Samuel C. Prescott, and A. B. Seymour.